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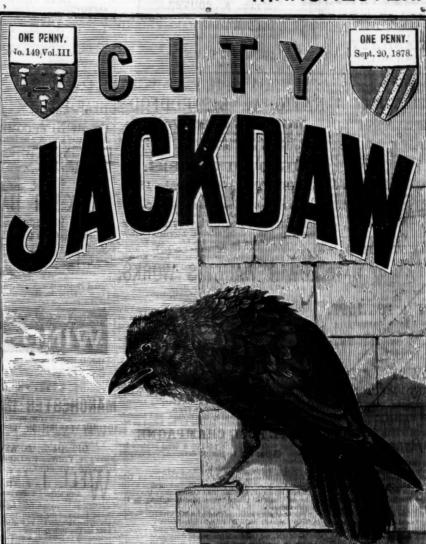
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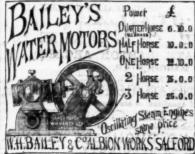
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MANCHESTER: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1878.

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CLERICAL TOLERANCE AT BLACKPOOL.

[BY FIGARO JUNIOR.]

OME curious and instructive correspondence respecting the question of Sunday observance appeared in the Blackpool Herald last week curious because of the singular folly exhibited by one of the persons serned, and instructive as showing the attitude which a portion of the Anglican clergy are still ready to assume at a given opportunity towards my movement for the spread of "sweetness and light" which is not in accordance with their prejudices and their supposed interests. The drectors of the Winter Gardens bethought themselves that they might render efficient help to the sufferers from the collision on the Thames by giving a concert of sacred music on Sunday last. Such a concert was, therefore, arranged; several professional musicians proffered gratuitous ervices; the choirs of nearly all the places of worship in the town also ame forward to help, and, even down to the man who posted the bills, veryone engaged refused to accept any remuneration for such work as they might do in connection with the concert. A capital programme, emsisting chiefly of extracts from the "Creation," the "Messiah," St. Paul," and "Eli" was issued, and all the arrangements finally settled, when suddenly the Sabbatarian spectre appeared upon the sene, clothed in the garments which belong to the Rev. C. H. Wainright, vicar of Christ Church, Blackpool, and could only be exorcised at a sacrifice—only nominal, however, as it turned out—of all the oney which would have been paid for admission to the concert. While he directors had been making their arrangements for giving the oncert, Mr. Wainwright-vigllant guardian of the interests of the Creator h Blackpool !-had been making his for stopping it. In a letter which spears to have come upon Mr. Stevenson, the manager of the gardens, he a small bombshell, the worthy vicar announced that he had written to London for an opinion as to the legality of the advertised concert, and had received a reply that it was clearly illegal by the statute 21 Geo. III, t. 49, sec. 4. He had, further, set in motion the Lord's Day Observance Society, who were prepared to act if the directors persisted in holding the concert, but, desirous of giving the sinners whom he was addressing one more chance, Mr. Wainwright pomponely informed them that if they would promise him before eleven o'clock the next day to obey the law and give up the concert, he would, in his great mercy, take no further notice of the matter. It so happened, however, that the directors of the company are not the men to be put down by the black militia in this fashion, and at a special meeting they decided that the concert should take place, but that no charge should be made for admission-a resolve which would take the wind out of Mr. Wainwright's sails in a very effectual manner, and leave him merely the satisfaction, if he thinks it such, of having, as far as he

their own customers. The course pursued by the clergy--who are always keenly alive to their own interests in such matters—is perfectly clear. They know that numbers of people go to church and listen to the service, read generally in a way that must make the Almighty regret that he gave man the faculty of speech, and to unutterably dull sermons, simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. If any rival amusement was started the Church must, of course, suffer, and it is therefore to the pecuniary interest of the clergy to obstruct, as far as possible, any movement which may deprive them of the presence of people who give to offertories and pay pew rents. As for a really religious objection on the part of such persons as Mr. Wainwright to the rational amusement of the people on Sundays by means of concerts or other entertainments, I do not for a moment believe in it. I can no more think that the clergy are actuated by a religious motive in calling upon the law to assist them in maintaining their exclusive privilege of making money on the Sunday than I can believe the Spanish Inquisition were full of holy thoughts and desires when they arranged an auto da fe. With these last named gentlemen, the Church was a great money-making establishment which had to be supported by any means, and which would brook no rivalry which seemed likely to divert the flow of public wealth from the throne of the successor of St. Peter, and, after all these centuries, precisely the same spirit still animates such clerics as are represented by this Blackpool parson, though it is now obliged to find vent in a different way. The times alter, but the clergy do not alter with them to any proportionate extent, and no one who watches the conduct of the bulk of the members of the ecclesiastical profession in all matters where the good of the people, as contradistinguished from the interest of the Church, is concerned, can for a moment doubt that they are now, as they always have been, the enemies and obstructionists of all progress and liberty.

In the present instance the position taken by Mr. Wainwright is not only supremely ridiculous and childish: it is also a confession of the inherent weakness of the Church. He evidently has no faith in his own power or that of his brethren in Blackpool to make people religious by power or that of his brethren in Blackpool to make people religious by more force of admonition, and therefore he calls in the aid of a law passed at a time when the Church was stronger in the State than sho now is, in order, if not to compel them to go to church, at least to prevent them from going anywhere else. If it were of any use argaing with narrow-minded higotry one might suggest to Mr. Wainwright that if, according to his ostensible view, people are inclined to commit sin there is not much gained by forcibly preventing them from doing so, seeing that the intention remains the same. And it might also be suggested to him that there is something peculiarly odions in the fact of a clergyman, who is constantly preaching about charity and good will, thus availing himself of a wretched and obsolete law in order to stop the enjoyment of thousands of people, to say nothing of the loss which the "Princess Alico" Fand might have sustained on account of the concert being compulsorily gratis. Nothing leave him merely the satisfaction, if he thinks it such, of having, as far as he then knew, prevented the flow of charity, although he could not prevent the concert itself. The concert took place in due course, and instead of paying for admission the visitors put their money in collecting boxes, nearly £160 being thus realised. The directors deserve the thanks of all sensible people for having resisted this insolent attempt at dictation, and for having resorted to this means of nullifying a stapid and barbarous law, which would long since have become obsolete had if not been found a convenient engine by narrow bigotry and intolerance. I assume, of course, that their action does evade the law, and that they were guided by advice, for I have not sufficient knowledge of this precious statute of Geo. III. to understand whether it could be applied to gratuitous entertainments of this kind.

There was a time when the idea expressed by the word Sabbatarian, was a good and estimable one, but the term has now come to have a very shopkeeping, in which the clergy do all in their power to prevent other establishments being opened on Sunday for fear they should lose some of

BOTHAM'S WORM CAKES (Manufactory, Levensbulme.) are universally admitted to be the best and most palatable, and the only preparation to be relied on either for children or adults. Id. each—7 for 6d.—and is canisters—of all Chemists throughout the world.

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AT THE "THORNY HEDGEHOG."

[BY HENRY GRABAM, ESQ., AUTHOR OF "THE NEW COINAGE."]

Dramatis Persone: Pimple, Weakspot, Fustian, Feather, Sickofit, and general company.

Time : Eight o'clock p.m.

Fustian: I consider that Pimple is out of order; he's fast becoming unbearable. If a man opens his mouth, Pimple's down his throat in an instant.

WEARSPOT (in a loud voice, and looking to Pimple who appears to be dozing): The Pimples are a privileged people. (A laugh.) The Pimples please themselves, and that is sufficient for the Pimples.

FEATHER (nudging Pimple): D'ye hear that, old man?

Pimple: It is sometimes an advantage that we do not hear. (A laugh.) But does it follow that we are deaf? (Laughter.) There is an unsavoury odour in this apartment (a laugh), and the atmosphere of the "Thorny Hedgehog" may be improved with advantage. Open the windows (much laughter); open the windows, and give us a breath that we may breathe (a laugh), and that without suspicion of—

FUSTIAN: Our friend's wakening up. (Laughter.) I think he's been

in the sun. (More laughter.)

PIMPLE: We meet the man in the way to day that we may never meet again. (Good.) And (with a queer look at Fustian) we are thankful for that occasionally. (Laughter.) Sometimes—but very seldom—it is a cause of sorrow. (Hear.)

WEARSPOT: Fustian insinuates that you've been in the sun. (So he

has; so he has.)

PIMPLE: So I have (cheers), and a glorious orb it is. (A laugh.) Yet there are spots on the sun, I'm told, if we will but take a telescope (much laughter); for myself, this thing I cannot do. (Good.) He is a sufficiently bright sun for me (cheers), and I'm thankful. (Hear.)

FEATHER: Thankfulness is the best thrift. (Good.)

WEAKSPOT: Is it?

Furtian (who notices Pimple dozing again): What's your opinion, Mr. Pimple, of these accidents?

PIMPLE (waking slightly): Did somebody speak to mo? (A laugh.)

FUSTIAN (winking to Weakspot): Yes; I did.

PIMPLE: And what did you say? (Laughter.)

FUSTIAN: I said that I wanted to know what you thought of these accidents?

PIMPLE: Which accidents? (A laugh.) What accidents? Art thou the accident? (A laugh.) I thought it was of an accident, and that the question had a personal (laughter), a very painful reference. (Loud laughter.) Still, I suppose, we must have these Fustians—they are a part of the plan. (Oh!)

FUSTIAN: And the Pimples. (Good, good.)

SICKOPIT: I wish that some of you could hear yourselves talk. I think I'll be steering home. [Exit Sickofit.]

PIMPLE (looking to the closing door, and with an emphasis of affection):

"I hear a voice you cannot hear That says I must not stay; I see a hand you cannot see Which beckons me away."

FUSTIAN: He's afraid of that hand. (Laughter.)

WEARSPOT: There's too much philosophy for Sickofit to night.
FEATHER: By the way, Pimple, what is your opinion of Roebuck?

FUSTIAN: Do it proper—" The Right Honourable John Arthur Roebuck, Esquire!"—that's the way to say it, and give 'em a lot for their money.

FINILE (with an air of disgust): We are much mixed, this evening, Feather, and to-night I'm half disposed to believe in Darwin (laughter), and yet there are those who find fault with the English for being an exclusive people. (Good.) Is it not an exquisite pleasure sometimes for a man to be alone (a laugh)? but the Fustians never care for your comfort. They will intrude themselves, and the thorns of the "Hedgehog" are no defence.

WEARSPOT: He doesn't like to tackle John Arthur. (Good.) Valourous Pimple!

PINTLE: I'm afraid of his mouth. (A laugh.) It's an awful mouth. (Much laughter.) I've heard of the foot and mouth disease (a laugh), and of the other infimities of distempered cattle (laughter); I don't know how the right honourable gentleman goes on his foot (a laugh), but it has been demonstrated that there is something the matter with his mouth. (Capital.)

WEAKSFOT: Yes; there is terror in that mouth for the curs of low degree. (Hear.)

PIMELE: Not now, not now. (Cheers.) The deft dentist has been at work; there are the decaying stumps (a laugh), but no biting teeth (good); the old dog snarks, and the other dogs smile.

WEAKSPOT: No great name is sacred to Pimple.

PIMPLE: There thou art wrong, and that in a most rascally fashion. (Cheers.) It is in the great name that we do take delight. (Hear.) The Pimples stand by that which is durable (cheers); lean upon it, sometimes. (Laughter.) We don't on the men that can come to the front in the delivery of the State. (Hear, hear.) Nay, we love and reverence the truly right honourable man. (Laughter.) But the thing that I love must be better than I. (Cheers.)

FUSTIAN: Better than Pimple? (A laugh.)

PIMPLE: We think that heaven is up above; and so are all things that we love.

Weakspor (mimicking Pimple): Up above! (Laughter.)

PIMPLE: Yes, up above; but this unhappy individual is down below (laughter), very much underneath (more laughter). This decidedly yellow diamond would have remained in the dust; this—

WEAKSPOT: "A stone that is fit for the building does not lie long in

the road." (Good.)

PIMPLE: It was the paltry effort of a proud Premier (laughter); it was an abuse of power to place the faltering feet of Roebuck on to such a pedestal. (Cheers.) Why, the man of his natural density had sunk into the depths (laughter), and the proper view was over his head (a laugh); quite over his head. (Cheers.) But this gingering process makes the old man jump. (Laughter.) Yet, unfortunately, he cannot jump out of his skin. (Cheers.)

WEARSPOT: I contend that you do Mr. Rocbuck a gross injustice.

(Hear, hear.)

PIMPLE: Ye may no more contend. (Laughter.) It is not a matter for contention. (More laughter.)

WEARSPOT: But surely I may have an opinion?

PIMPLE: Did'st ever see a four-leg'd flock on the wing? (Much laughter.)

Weakspot: Do not Samson us with a lusty jawbone. (Capital.) I'm not to be intimidated in the defence of ——

Fustian: Well done, Weakspot (laughter); let him have it—straight. (Hear, hear.) Give him another like that in the same spot.

PINITE: The Weakspots do not require that the Fustians should pat them on the back. (Laughter.)

PIMPLE: Now that will do, of that sort. (Laughter.) There are too many feathers in the bolster (a laugh); and, in truth, my friend Wesk-spot, this is but a wooden work of thine. (More laughter.) If thou are a friend of Roebuck's (a laugh), if thou hast inherited from thy tender mother any of the maternal heart (much laughter), cover this cripple of a child with the mantle of oblivion. (Roars of laughter.)

Weaksfor: Such men as Roebuck are an ornament to the Privy

PIMPLE: He is Beaconsfield's latest sunb to genuine nobility. (Good.) As though he had said—"This is the stuff of which the right honourables are made; who is there waiting to be canobled now?" (Cheers.) Does John Bright plume himself with the pride of this distinction? So may Roebuck. (Hear.) That lets them down; and—but I'm sick of the subject. (Laughter.)

Weakspot: You don't mean to say that Mr. Roebuck is unworthy of the honour that a gracious Queen has so graciously given to him? (Hear.) PIMPLE: Gracious fiddlestick! (Laughter.) The Queen—may she be preserved (laughter); and there is special occasion for the prayer just now (more laughter);—the Queen is as innocent of the perplexing pathway in which the Premier treads as the canary there that hangs in the cage. (Laughter.) She thinks—good, easy woman—very generally; and comes to the comfortable conclusion that all will be well. (Hear, hear.)

WEARSPOT: All is well. (Good.)

PIMPLE: Well, if all is not well, in good time we will make it so

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(Laughter.) The sorrows of the land enlarge the soul, and increase and intensify the capacity of the statesman. (Bravo.) If the dear native soil were void of sorrow our Gladstones would run to seed (hear), and the Brights become but a vanity of bloom. (Loud laughter.)

WEAKSPOT: Pimple's pie is all crust just now (laughter); his old teeth are against the fleshless bone. (Laughter.)

"this is truth the poet sings, That a sorrow's crown of sorrow is remembering happier things."

(Capital; and, "Well done, Weakspot.")

PIMPLE: I object to that as a most vile prostitution of the poet; as

FUSTIAN: But what has all this to do with John Arthur? (A laugh.) Weakspot (to Pimple): "The shafts of Satan slide at truth." (Loud laughter.)

PIMPLE: Now come we to a cross road (a laugh); but I shall go forward (hear); keep me out of the crooked path and from the fear of surprise.

WEARSPOT: Pimple is evidently at the end of the journey. (Laughter.) He goes lamely, too (a laugh), on crutches of proverbs and parables. (Cheers.)

PIMPLE: And, indeed, under all this weight of words our frail flesh requires some support. (Hear and laughter.) Ring me the bell, Feather, ring the bell. (That's the thing.)

[Feather rings the bell, and the Barmaid enters, and looks to Pimple.]

PIMPLE (to Barmaid):

"All precious things discovered late, To those that meek them issue forth;"

And were it not for Mrs. Pimple, and other Pimples (a laugh); but-BARMAID: Come, gentlemen, my time is precious; what shall I bring?

> "The muse, the jolly muse, it is! She answered to my call, She changes with that mood or this, Is all-in-all to all; Is all-in-all to all;
> She lit the spark within my throat,
> To make my blood run quicker,
> Used all her fiery will, and smote
> Her life into the liquor."

(Bravo.) I'll take a small gin (laughter), and just peep over the precipice. (Roars

of laughter.) FEATHER (to Barmaid) : Say gins all round.

[Barmaid retires, and returns with liquors, and again retires.] FEATHER: Mr. Pimple, I call upon you to make good your case against

Mr. Roebuck, or-

Fustian: Yes; give us facts.

WEARSPOT: Facts that may not be disputed. (Hear.)

PIMPLE (who rises in the midst of much cheering and clatter of glasses): Here's to the health of our sovereign lady, the Queen, and if she lives so long as I would wish (laughter), well, may she survive Pimple (hear), and may that illustrious individual live to a ripe old age. (Hear, hear.) No doubt you all agree with that? (We do.) I thought so; although on certain subjects we may be divided in opinion, and that is well. (Hear.) Diversity is the order of nature; and Englishmen, of whatever political shade, desire to push the great wheel of progress together. (Capital.) Nor do we mind the small obstructions that come in the way (laughter); and if, after fair warning, they will not get out of the way (cheers), then, without compunction, we crush them, and flatten them so effectually that they rise no more. (Hear.) But there are certain impediments in the path of our prosperity that have to be removed (hear), and I take it that the precedent involved in the elevation of such a "moiety" of a man as Roebuck is one of them. (Hear,) What, in all his busy public life, did he ever do but the things that he ought not to have done? (Question.) It is a question, and a very serious question (hear), and it shall be seriously answered. (Bravo.) We can admire a man who, in principle, may be conscientiously opposed to us, and even pay respect to the lost labour of a life that has been the result of honest conviction; but what are we to think of the conduct, that in old age, which, lacking any brighter guide, has, at least, the glimmer of experience-what, I say, are we to think of the conduct that suggests the base desertion of a friend for the vain and valueless distinction of an inveterate enemy? (Loud cheers.)

Weakspor: But Mr. Roebuck is an independent member.

PIMPLE: That is no cover for Roebuck's infirmity. (Hear.) Let him go speedily to the other side of the House (hear); we prefer the

vacant place to the vacant mind (good), and a fair farthing candle to any Will o' the Wisp of that particular pattern. (Laughter.)

FUSTIAN: Now, gentlemen, I propose we settle it in this way -

[Barmaid enters, and intimates that it's again considerably after EXEUNT OMNES.

A PRACTICAL REASON.

"TULLO! old chum! And is that you? What! regimentals on? Indeed! you've joined the army, then? How are you coming on?'

> 'Twas thus a friend once met a friend Not seen for many a year, Almost forgotten, schoolboys once, They met before the "Mare."

"Well, let's call here and have a drain And talk of bygone days.
Two whiskies, waiter, please. All right;
It's me, old chap, that pays."

"Ah! yes, the army's mighty fine--I always—take it hot?— I always say a soldier boy's

The happiest of the lot.

" Besides, you know, the feeling, Jack, Is manly, noble, brave; A fellow gives his life, his all, An honourable slave.

"A fellow pants with valour, then He joins the army corps——"

"Well, no-it's when his money's done, And there's no sight of more!"

[Left draining.

THERE'S MANY A SLIP, &c.

EVERAL days ago (we read in an American paper) a couple of Brooklyn lovers went to the cemetery, drank a lot of laudanum, lay down in each others' arms, and prepared to die. The laudanum didn't work according to expectation, and the young lady has now brought a suit against him for breach of contract. In turn the young man is to sue the druggist for false pretences. And the cemetery association is to sue all three for trespass. The course of true love is, of course, circuitous and coarse.

DRAMATIC REFORMERS.

HE Athenaum and the Dramatic Reform Association have fallen foul of one another in rather a violent fashion. Our respectable old conof one another in rather a violent fashion. Our respectable old contemporary last Saturday intimated that, in its opinion, the Association was of about as much use as the fifth wheel of a coach, whereupon Mr. J. S. Bogg, secretary of the said association, retorts by accusing the Athenœum of a suppressio veri, if not of a suggestio fulsi, and winds up with insinuations about metropolitan cliques which resent provincial interference in literary, artistic, or dramatic matters. One might almost incline to suspect that the warmth of Mr. Bogg's rejoinder was prompted by the consciousness that the Athenæum's sneer, though it may have been undeserved, was not altogether unwarranted by the facts. The Dramatic Reform Association is a body the raison d'étre of which is not likely to be obvious to all minds, not so much because anyone doubts the necessity of stage reform as because a good many may be incredulous as to the possibility of effecting such reform by the means of associations whose modus operandi, perhaps inevitably, has a certain savour of goody goodiness about it, and which have a decided tendency towards Pharasaism. Perhaps, then, the Athenaum might, in spite of Mr. Bogg's insinuations, have only been expressing its honest conviction, even though it did, as he says, fail to note one or two facts concerning the work of the association -an omission the more excusable since that work does not as yet appear to have led to anything. We certainly have no animus against the association, though Mr. Bogg might possibly think differently. Our only objection to it is that in the nature of things it cannot possibly effect any real improvement. A stage which is thoroughly the reflex of the ageas the English stage now is-will never be reformed until the age itself undergoes reform, and all the associations in the world will not bring that reform about.

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Persons who wish to see the City Jackdaw regularly are respectfully recommended to order it of their Newsagent, otherwise, they may be, and often are, disappointed in not being able to obtain copies. Or, it will be sent by post from the Publishing Office, 51, Spear Street, Manchester, every week for half-a-year on payment of 3s. 3d. in advance, being posted in time for delivery at any address each Friday morning.

WHAT FOLKS ARE SAYING.

HAT the sky is not clearing in the East,

That the blackest cloud would seem to be the Berlin Treaty.

That Turkey is rapidly falling to pieces.

That the Marquis of Salisbury has been on the Continent trying to improve matters.

That it is said that England is about to annex Egypt.

That the Sultan of Turkey and the Khedive of Egypt are to be turned into tributary Princes.

That the Earl of Beaconsfield has just received another new title.

That in Paris His Lordship is known as Lord Grab.

That Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury have been presented with Sheffield carvers in return for their "Peace with Honour."

That we have not got either the peace or the honour.

That-what of that?-their Lordships have got the carvers.

That the process of carving Turkey proceeds apace.

That Birmingham is in a nice state of muddle about the recent fatal

That the police apprehended the supposed culprit under a warrant issued by the coroner.

That, however, they refused to produce him at the inquest.

That they themselves charged the man with murder one day.

That they got him set at liberty a few hours later.

That the coroner has since been holding an inquest on the body of a

That the evidence showed that the husband had treated the woman very cruelly, and that her premature confinement and the death of the child were probably caused by such treatment.

That the coroner said he would have had the man taken into custody but for the strange state of things which existed in the town.

That it is time Mr. Cross interfered.

That a similar fire occurred in Salford only recently.

That-though the Salford police are by no means perfect-the inquiries which followed were got through with decency and in order.

That Councillor Nuttall, Mr. H. Ribton Cooke, and others met in Salford Town Hall on Monday night for the purpose of vivisecting the vivisectionists.

That they cut up the poor doctors in the most cruel manner conceivable.

That they were still hacking away at the wrotches when up sprang Professor Gamgee.

That he did kick against the pricks.

That Gamgee does not believe in being led like a lamb to the slaughter. That, so far as argument went, instead of the meeting vivisecting him, he vivisected the meeting.

That he told the chairman, the lecturer, and the meeting that he knew more about the subject than the whole lot of them put tegether did.

That, as a matter of fact, however, the meeting vivisected the learned professor by the sheer strength of numbers.

THRIFT PAPERS.

BY ESAU THROTTLEPET.

No. I.—HONEST SICK AND BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

HERE are in this country between four and five millions of members of sick and benefit societies. The societies may be broadly divided into two distinct classes :--

Firstly: Those managed by the members for the benefit of the members and their families.

Secondly: Those managed by the managers and secretary for the benefit of the managers and secretary.

In my next paper I will deal with the second class. Let me say a word at present in favour of the first and legitimate mutual aid organisations, amongst which may be named as leading societies the Oddfellows, the Foresters, and the Druids, which have many thousands of members, and which are managed with skill and honesty to the great advantage of the whole community.

Some years ago it was found that these societies had not placed their tables and rates on a proper scientific basis; and it was pointed out by Mr. Charles Hardwick, the sturdy reformer of benefit societies, that if they were not altered bankruptcy would overtake them, and, thanks to his exertions and those of many able co-workers, this wholesome advice has been accepted, and these societies may now be considered a great deal safer than many commercial undertakings.

The societies are in a purely democratic manner competing with the Poor Law Guardians of the country, for they are self governing and administer relief to the widows and children of poor men daily; but there is this great difference, that the Guardians spend public money from levied rates, and these associations only spend their own money contributed by their own members. The inner life and management of these societies is scarcely known to the general well-to-do middle classes. The members elect their officers annually, and only those whose devotion, self-sacrifice, shrewdness, and business ability have won the sympathies of the members, are placed in positions of trust and honour.

These men meet together after a day's hard work, and administer their affairs with the exactitude of a bank, their only pay being the approbation of their own great hearts and the respect of their fellow-workers.

If anyone wishes to find fellowship with modern Christian knighthood he will find it at the meetings of these men, albeit that fustian has replaced steel-plated armour, and pen and book do duty for lance and shield. Look at their records.

"WHEREIN WE SHALL FYNDE MANY JOYOUS AND PLAY-SAUNT HYSTORIES, AND NOBLE AND RENOMED ACTES OF HUMANYTE, GENTYLNESSE AND CHIVALRYES, FOR HEREIN MAY BE SEEN, CURTOSYE, FRIENDLYNESSE, HAR-DYNESSE, LOVE, AND VIRTUE."

To see brave men struggling with difficulties always excites in the breast of Englishmen a burst of admiration. An heroic resone from impending death stirs up our noblest emotions. What sort of respect shall we pay that poor toiling man who out of his little 25s. a week manages to pay, with paternal solicitude and moral bravery, a few coppers to a fund which will keep his widow and his little ones from drifting to the workhouse when he dies?

The very groundwork and foundation of English honour is to be found among such poor but worthy citizens-for here we find self-dependence family affection, the sacred English name home, the imperial pride of honest labour, Christian tenderness, and other high qualities which we feel have so much contributed to our material prosperity and exaltation among the nations of the earth.

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MANCHESTER AUTUMN EXHIBITION.

ART is a subject upon which, as a rule, everybody differs with his friend; but there seems to be wonderful unanimity in the opinions about the present autumn exhibition. The chronic grumblers, the stern critic, the gushing young lady, are all agreed that it is of an unusually high standard of excellence. Even the hanging seems to have escaped complaint. Some of our readers may have seen a set of whimsical cartoons drawn by Mr. H. Stacey Marks, in which a good deal of fun was poked at the powers that be in the Royal Academy. One of the most effective of them exhibited the hanging committee "hoist by their own petard,"-literally hung-hung by the heels, if we recollect rightly; and the verdict of the art clubs was that impalement was a fitter death for the hangers-hang 'em! The Manchester hangers have been, on the whole, extremely successful in dealing with their work. You can see here and there that the question had to be left to the arbitrament of a two-foot rule; and a few incongruities strike the observant eye; but to ask for hanging which shall be absolutely perfect is to demand that which you will never get in this world or any other. A new characteristic of the exhibition is its great variety of subject, and its size, the central gallery supplying an immense addition to the wall space, and yet, notwithstanding this welcome increase, the catalogue announces that "the selection and hanging committee have to regret that, through the unavoidable limitation of the wall space at their disposal, they have been again unable to hang a large number of meritorious pictures and drawings sent by various contributors."

Such as it is, however, it is a brave show, which is not to be exhausted, scarcely even seen, in one visit. A magnificent Watts makes an effective coup d'wil on entering the first room-the most recent addition to the series of allegories in colour on which he has been working for some years. This is "Mischief," who is leading through flowery brake and thorny bramble the swain whom she has enamoured; and it is superb in qualities of colour. Just underneath, is a contrast-a little melancholy sonnet as compared with the grand epic above—the sad, wan face of poor Ophelia, most pathetic and poetic. The collection is strong in portraits. Here is a splendid likeness of Mrs. Crompton Potter, by Mr. Storey, A.R.A., painted in the style of Rubens, and quite in the broad, free spirit of the Flemish master; and it is balanced by Mr. Rudolph Lehman's portrait of Mrs. Stuart Forster, a thoroughly refined work. In the next room we have Mr. Pettie's counterfeit presentment of Mr. Taylor Whitehead, one of the most powerful things the artist has ever done, Venetian in its strength of colour, and yet no sacrifice of realism to effect of tone. Mr. Frith sends a portrait of Mrs. Thomas Hetherington, and Mr. Onless seems to challenge a comparison with a portrait of her "better half," or, at all events, if he does not, he might have thrown down the glove, for there is an unmeasurable advantage on his side in a comparison of the works. There is a portrait also by Miss Jopling, which impressed us with its finished style; but where it is, or of whom it is, we cannot for the life of us say, writing now without a catalogue, but the visitor should look it up. There is one more which peremptorily calls for notice, in which the figures seem to step out of the frame to compel attention. It is the Fantin in the fourth room, and it is the best of the few figure subjects we have seen of the Prince of Flowers-Here is a robust style, if you like. Look at the powerful modelling; the splendid texture; the exquisite naturalness of the attitudes, and say if you have ever seen anything so much like life on canvas before. Here, in a parenthesis, let us mention Fantin's flowers. Mr. Barlow's delightful cluster of white roses hangs beneath the large figure picture, and there are two other compositions in the first room.

But the treasures of the first room are not yet exhausted. Mr. T. Armstrong's "Three Graces," if we may give it a title, and his scholarly "Ariadne abandoned by Theseus"; Mr. Walter Crane's strange and, in many qualities, fascinating "Persophone"; Mr. Ford Madox Brown's "Cromwell," Mr. James Tissot's marvellous "Winter Time" and brilliant "Evening" must all be looked at. Mr. Clarence Whaite's "Thirlmere," a bright picture of the lake under a sunny aspect; Mr. Mark Fisher's charming pastoral, the "Surrey Common"; Mr. Knight's breezy, hay-field scene; and Mr. Brewtnall's poetic rendering of the "Blind Beggar's Daughter of Bethnal Green," are alone worth a long inspection. There is an immense and crowded canvas from Mr. Keeley Halsewelle. A series of striking, graphic, but paint-laden works come from Mr. Andrew Maccallum. Mr. Briton Riviere's humorous "Stern Chase" is once more on public view. Sir John Gilbert's vigorous drawing and animated style are seen at their best in the

"Battle of Naseby." All these are admirable works, but because others in the two first galleries are not mentioned it must not be supposed that they are not also good. In fact, though there are pictures of considerably differing degrees of interest, there are very few indeed which deserve to be classed as indifferent works. We must hurry through the water-colours without descending to details. It is a brilliant show, and equal in merit, if smaller in quantity, to the oils. To the fourth room we hurry again, and here we find a rare gathering of canvas work. Some one has been good enough to lend Mr. Millais' "Winter's Fuel," a vigorous piece of realism which exhibits the solid technical knowledge of the painter, but yet sadly lacks the imaginative quality, of which the only suggestion appears in the presence of the little girl. Close by hang-once more, a happy combination on the part of the committeetwo admirable seascapes. Mr. Colin Hunter, one of the most masculine workers and poetic thinkers of the new Scotch school, has an important work—"Hauling in the Net"—charming in tone, and academic in the drawing of the boatmen. Mr. Henry Moore's "Lifeboat" is also a powerful performance, especially noticeable for the truth of the wave forms, but marked throughout by a tendency to a hardness and coldness in colour. Note, also, for a clever piece of sea-painting, Mr. Napier Hemy's "Rocky Coast" on the opposite wall. M. Alphonse Legros is a welcome addition to the usual contributors. and, besides some broad effects in heads, sends a picturesque church interior, with some splendid work in the kneeling figures. Basil Bradley seems, in his cattle scene here, to be realising the expectations we used to form of him years and years since. The beasts are as excellent as those in the long-ago Chillingham picture, and the landscape as poetic as the figures are true. Mark Fisher, too, has another work here, and there are a small example of F. Walker; a little, single figure picture, by Mr. Marsh, quite idyllic in its loveliness and simplicity-a girl walking home in the evening light, with a rake on her shoulder; an ambitious work of A. C. Gow, depicting a " scene " in parliament, in days long before the Home Rulers were in being; a drawing of dogs, technically elever, but not much more, by John Charlton. But the grandest picture in the room, not even excepting the Millais and Fantin's "Lecture," is, despite its sombre tone, Joseph Israel's melancholy, but impressive work, "Returning from the Fields." It does not want description; it tells its own sympathetic story to those who will

It is impossible to walk through the rooms without being struck with the extremely small show sent in by the Manchester artists. J. D. Watson with only one; Joseph Knight one; Mr. Partington not here at all; nothing from Messrs. Rothwell, Crozier; and only half a dozen little works from Messrs. Anderson Hague, Somerset, Houghton Hague, Bancroft, and Meredith, to represent the rising and industrious body of local artists—how is this, and what does it mean? Have the committee been unwise or the artists hasty? Was it impossible to satisfactorily settle this miserable hanging difficulty? Could not the authorities have conceded something, or have the artists forgotten that it is at least of as much benefit to them to exhibit as it is to the public—to them commercially and to the public artistically? It is a deplorable circumstance that there should have been a disagreement which reduces a contribution, never the least interesting, and always numerous, to some dozen specimens of not particularly important work.

One more question, now we are in the interrogative mood. Why in the world have the directors raised the price of a season ticket to 5s., and that at a time when everybody is complaining of money being "tight?" It is hard on a good many families that the price should, unannounced, be raised a hundred per cent, and that it is a mistake is shown, we believe, by the attendance. To double the price of the season ticket is not the best way to popularise art.

The "scuttlers" who have for several months past placed the peaceably-disposed inhabitants of Bradford-cum-Beswick in terrorem, more especially on Sunday evenings, are, we understand, about to be subjected to an important experiment. The Towns Police Clauses Act, under which these ruffians have been fined for "throwing stones in the streets," has proved altogether ineffectual in repressing the disturbances; and it is now intended, we believe, that future prosecutions shall be taken under that section of the general Act relating to an affray and unlawfully assembling. This course will enable the justices to commit the offenders for trial, and thus a much more drastic remedy may be applied to them than the law allows at the hands of the justices in the court below. We hope that Captain Scuttle will make a note of this.

A PENDLETON PARSON'S PERVERSITY.

T is not everybody, perhaps, who read the correspondence between Mr. Churchwarden Meed, Bishop Fraser, and the Rev. Francis Hill Mr. Churchwarden Meed, Bishop Fraser, and the Rev. Francis Hill Arbuthnot Wright, M.A., that knows Paddington parish is a slice off Pendleton township, a Peel remnant—we had nearly said a Peel-ing-of the old parish of Eccles. So it is, however. The church, which has lately grown notorious for rumpuses in connection with its ritualism, is situated in Ellor Street. It was consecrated in 1856, having been built out of the contributious of a congregation who are nothing if not Protestant. At the last census the population of Paddington parish numbered 8,338 souls, and it has nearly doubled since 1871. The church affords sitting accommodation for 889 persons, 568 sittings are free, and the rent of the rest goes towards the vicar's stipend, which is set down at £300 a year. The parish is singularly destitute of rich men. The streets abound with unwashed women, not too sober, and children who can scent "The School Board" like a hawk, and the sireet corners are guarded by long, lank, lazy, young fellows, shaven back and front, in greasy skull caps, and with a piece of woollen scarf knotted round their necks as if they had cheated Jack Ketch. We need say nothing of clay pipes. What a field for a Hindoo missionary! From the year 1863 till about sixteen months ago the Rev. H. M. Harmer was vicar of St. Paul's. but, getting tired of a hard parish, and, seeking rest after over thirty years' toil, he contrived to exchange livings with a Cornish vicar as old as himself, whose name we have written in full that he may not be mistaken for some other of the seventy-six Wrights who are in the Church, and four of whom are in the Manchester diocese. Mr. Wright happened to be vicar of St. Stithian's, near Perran-Arworthal, in the diocese of Truro, Cornwall, a parish which is pleasantly situated on high ground not far from an arm of the sea. We know nothing of the hunting and fishing there, but we understand that there are Druidical remains in the parish; that the population is 3,667, and the gross income of its vicar £500, net £400, and house. This sounds pleasant and the place looks like a little paradise below, from a tired parson's point of view. We are further informed that Wesleyans and Dissenters abound in the parish. We are not at all suprised to hear it. To be brief, a "swap" was arranged, and the Paddingtonians strongly suspect that their retiring vicar paid a consideration for the difference of £100 a year in the income; perhaps a trifle for the fresh air, too. Parson Wright came into the slums of Pendleton and found a congregation of several hundreds, a church nearly full, and a good voluntary choir, all which must have delighted his heart, if it be true, as reported, that he had been accustomed to perform the service and preach to congregations consisting only of his own family and the apparitor. For a Sunday or two the service was conducted at St. Paul's as in Mr. Harmer's time, and it was rumonred that a part of the bargain between the two parsons was that the service should not be in any respect changed at St. Paul's. Soon after the induction, however, the new vicar began new movements, turning his back on the congregation, and from one thing he has gone on, as all the world sees, to lighting candles. In the interim a letter was sent from the congregation asking the vicar in kindly terms to desist from certain objectionable innovations, and telling him of the reputed stipulation with the late vicar not to alter anything. The reply never touched the last point, and the new pastor declined to concede anything. By pewsful the congregation kept dwindling down. Then the voluntary choir were driven off because they would not participate in certain practices offensive to their conscience. After that, the organist fled, taking all the music with him, and for many a week the place was in a pretty pickle-no music, or when there was a little it was of a very makeshift order. By this time the Protestant blood of the people began to tingle, but they contented themselves with waning quietly away, congregation and schools. A recruit teacher was drummed up, after the vicar's heart, and he began to try on the innoculation of ritualism. The young blood could not stand this, and they battered the poor pate of the teacher with a storm of Bibles to such a pitch that he was fain to seek refuge without the precincts of the school walls, and for a time he eschewed the place. lump of a Bible in the hand of "scuttlers" is no mean projectile to come in contact with a head, however hard that head may be. At the Easter vestry meeting there was a regular scene, lasting nearly three hours, when the vicar was tackled with no mistaken spirit, but he only answered by twisting his pen and imitating Jefferson in the character of "Rip Van Winkle," after he was drunk with Hendrick Hudson and his crew. Soon after this all sorts of rumours got affoat. One was that a

portion of the new vicar's family went regularly to St. James's Roman Catholic Church. Another was that a certain wealthy alderman, who is expected to come into the vicinity, was being baited for by the services. These apart, the church is emptied of its congregation, the people are in disgust. One of the late churchwardens has taken refuge with the Wes. leyans, many of the late congregation go nowhere, some snatch a sermon or prayers by chance, as a prowling dog does his bones. The only thing they find to admire in their vicar is the nonchalant air he assumes. All are scandalised by the change. The older tell how the Rev. Mr. Parsons preached the church full as fast as it has been preached empty by the new vicar. The more thoughtful parishioners blame their late vicar for selling them so completely, and are wild with the bishop for sanctioning such trucking. If the bishop and the late vicar did not know what they were bringing into the parish they might have done so by following the simple Would they commercial custom of asking for information on the subject. buy a horse without a warranty, or hire a scullion without a character? The parishioners who found the money for the church are scandalised and wish Father Wright anywhere but at St. Paul's, Paddington,

MAGISTRATES WANTED.

MONSIDERING the number of county justices there are, a visitor to the Manchester County Police-court, on Saturday last, might wel be surprised that forty minutes were lost in consequence of no magistrate putting in an appearance; whilst on Monday an hour and a quarter was wasted through the non-attendance of a second magistrate. Our readers may be interested to learn that there are in Lancashire 733 county justices, the numbers in the several "hundreds" being-Salford, 259; West Derby, 194; Blackburn, 107; Lonsdale, 97; Amounderness, 47; Leyland, 29. There are four of these justices who have been in the commission of the peace more than half a century. Mr. Robert Townley Parker, of Cuerden Hall, near Preston-the college friend of Cardinal Manning-is the oldest of the quartet, having qualified in January, 1819, or 591 years ago. Next to him is the Rev. Richard Moore, Lund Vicarage, near Preston, who has been in the commission 55 years. Mr. Samuel Taylor, Eccleston Hall, Prescot, and Sir Matthew Wilson, M.P. (who, we believe, recently committed matrimony), come next, with 51 years of magisterial honours upon them, Mr. Taylor having about two months' precedence.

SUNDAYS IN OUR LIBRARIES.

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HE opponents of the Sunday opening of our free libraries, &c., hope to organise a "demonstration" in the Free Trade Hall, and to form an association "having for its object the re-establishment of Sabbath observance in connection with the free libraries." And pray, why only "in connection with our free libraries?" Here we have been going on, goodness knows how long, with open libraries at the Sunday schoolslibraries, many of which, comparatively speaking, contain a good deal more namby-pamby and unprofitable stuff than is to be had in our free libraries; and with our liquor, railway, police, postal, vehicular, and lighting services in active operation on the Sabbath. Can our Sunday free library closers assert that all the foregoing are absolutely "works of necessity or mercy?" How is it that so many of the people who have shut their eyes and said their orisons whilst manual labour in some of its severest forms has been (and still is) conducted on the Sabbath-engaging the hands of hundreds of thousands of persons in this country-are now raising such a hullaballoo about the opening of some half dozen public libraries and reading-rooms on that day? Such a policy exhibits either gross inconsistency or hypocritical fastidiousness, or both. Here is another nut for these people to crack, in addition to the one we gave them last week. There is a considerable body of men yelept stokers, who are employed every Sunday in manufacturing gas for public and domestic use. This gas is consumed in all the churches and chapels in Manchester. But it is not necessary, much less a work of mercy, that gas should be used in those places on the Sabbath. There are still to be had such articles as candles and lamp oil, in the "dim religious light" of which the same truths may be taught and as many consciences touched. Then why do the men-our friends the Ritualists excepted in some degree-who declare the Sunday opening of these few libraries to be an "impious innovation," discard the tallow chandler and the lamp merchant, and prefer the chemist and the glare of Sabbath-made gas?

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE "CITY JACKDAW."

IR,—The Rev. C. H. Wainwright, vicar of Christ Church, Blackpool, has at last succeeded in making himself notorious. If to be the sole topic of conversation at the seaside, and to be condemned by ninety-nine out of every hundred visitors, be a consummation to be wished, then the Rev. C. H. Wainwright has obtained this distinction in an eminent degree. He has hitherto been little known outside his parish, except when, during the Irish Church controversy, he happened to indulge in a few commonplace and vulgar harangues, of the Pomona Gardens stamp, directed against Mr. Gladstone; or when he has been stumping the country with a view to the conversion of Jews to the religious faith professed by Lord Beaconsfield. The reverend gentleman would, no doubt, have passed through life as an ordinary low church parson of the Jingo school but for his attempt to prevent the sufferers from the Thames calamity receiving any aid from a sacred concert which was advertised to take place last Sunday afternoon, in the Winter Gardens, the directors of which had obtained the gratuitous aid of two excellent vocalists (Miss Alice Barth and Mr. G. W. Travener), and the co-operation of fifty to sixty ladies and gentlemen from the various choirs of nearly all the churches in Blackpool, everything—servants, advertising, and bill posting—being free of charge. The whole proceeds of the concert, for which a charge of sixpence for admission was to be made, were to be given to the "Thames Calamity Fund," yet Mr. Wainwright's Christianity was too highly wrought to tolerate any such a desecration of the Sabbath. He wrote to the "Lord's Day Observance Society," and obtained from them the information that the Society was prepared to act if the concert was persisted in. To keep clear of a vexatious prosecution the directors very wisely decided to hold the concert, but to make no charge for admission, and to receive donations on a sheet at the door, so the rev. gentleman was nicely checkmated, and possibly his own weekly supply of threepenny bits was materially diminished. So great an amount of feeling had been shown against the rev. gentleman that the concert turned out to be a far greater success than its promoters ever anticipated. Over 10,000 people thronged the concert hall, comprising all classes and ranks in life, and a more respectable and orderly gathering we guarantee Mr. Wainwright has never preached before. As the crowd quickly passed through the gates donations, varying from 1d. to £1, were quickly deposited on the sheet prepared for that purpose, the result being that £157 were collected to aid, perhaps in a small degree, the distress occasioned by the Thames calamity, a sum which would never have been collected had Mr. Wainwright been allowed to have his own way. Men of this rev. gentleman's stamp cannot be argued with; it would be a waste of time; they are outside the pale of common sense, and it is to be hoped that, like the "dodo," they will soon only be known by their fossils. But, however thick-skinned Mr. Wainwright may be, to be voted a fanatic by 10,000 of his country. men is a punishment which even the most obtuse can understand. Mr. Wainwright's explosion of bigotry will long be remembered as one of the events of the Blackpool season of 1878 .- Yours, &c.

THE THEATRES.

TITLE EM'LY, a dramatic version, by Mr. Andrew Halliday, of portions of "David Copperfield," has succeeded Mr. Kelly's company at the Prince's, with Mr. G. W. Ansou, in his own part of "Mr. Micawber." This clever impersonation is well-known to Manchester playgoers and, it is unnecessary to say, is as amusing as ever. The rest of the characters are well filled; and we may particularly mention Mr. W. Constantine ("Dan'l Peggotty") and Mr. R. Brough ("Uriah Heap") as worthy of commendation. The mounting of the play is as usual, all that could be desired; and one scene, Canterbury Cathedral, by night, is particularly beautiful. Though the night's entertainment is interesting and amusing enough, the play as a whole is but a disjointed affair, which takes for granted a pre-knowledge of some of the characters and the cause of some of the incidents. As everyone has read "David Copperfield," perhaps this is not a very serious assumption.

Queen's Evidence is continued at the Royal.

In the large Free Trade Hall, Sam Hague's Minstrels pursue their successful career, being deservedly applauded each night by crowded audiences. Mr. Kennedy and his talented family are shortly to visit the Assembly-room. Those who delight in Scottish song and humour will have a rare treat. In this line, Mr. Kennedy is, undoubtedly, the prince of entertainers.

THE SHEFFIELD JINGOES.

RE we to understand that the unnamed Sheffield firm who have just exhibited their exuberant Jingoism to the gaze of the world have presented those "magnificent carvers" to Lords Beaconsfield and Salisbury as a memento of the skill with which they managed to carve large slices out of Turkey, without partitioning her in the least? If so, surely no present could be more appropriate. How soothing to the feelings of the Premier it will be when he sits down to dinner to have the approbation of a grateful country brought to his recollection by the sight of the carving kuife and fork, and with how much greater zest will himself and his guests enjoy the beef or mutton which has been partitioned by the Sheffield instruments? Could not the idea be carried further? Why should not some tailor, profoundly impressed with the enormous value of Lord Beaconsfield's services to the country, present him with a new suit of clothes, "in this style, fifty-two and six," so that every morning when the Premier rose he might metaphorically envelope himself in the gratitude of the country? Then one tradesman who happened to be in the line might offer to paper the rooms at Hughenden; another might give the old man a carpet; a third might present him with a set of tea things, and so on, ad infinitum, until he was surrounded on every hand by the tokens of public approbation. We trust, if the notion here thrown out is adopted by the people for whom it is intended, that no ropemaker will think himself aggrieved because he was not specially mentioned in our brief catalogue above. His present might be of untold value.

COMMUNICATION WITH VESUVIUS.

HE last new thing in railway engineering is nothing less than a line from the base to the summit of Mount Vesuvius. The necessary powers have been obtained from the Naples Prefecture by the promoters, and probably by the time the tourist season sets in next year excursionists will be able to travel to the top of the volcano without the slightest exertion in the way of climbing. The railway will be over 900 yards long, and the carriages are to be drawn up, not by a locomotive but by a wire rope. It is to be hoped that Vesuvius will not feel indignant at this very utilitarian treatment of him, and unexpectedly throw out a few tons of lava in the treatment or nim, and unexpectedly throw out a few tons of lava in the track of the ascending train. In such an event things would be rather hot to the passengers. The notion, like most great ideas, is capable of infinite expansion and application. Probably the next thing we shall hear of will be a plan for filling up the crevices of the Alps and running a line of rails to the top of Mount Blanc; or for breaking up the Pyramids for the select of the hullding materials for some other single. for the sake of the building materials, or some other similar scheme which will finally take all the esthetic or picturesque nonsense out of the object to which it is applied. All these old curiosities such as Vesuvius, tho Pyramids, or Mount Blanc, are obviously of no use unless money can be made out of them.

"PATRIOTIC" SONGS.

R. Linneus Banks, whoever he may be, has been writing a "patriotic" song, which has been set to mucic the time. song, which has been set to music, the title of the effusion being "England's Great State Pilot," by whom it appears Lord Beaconsfield is meant. It is rather hard on the great Macdermott, of "We don't want to fight " celebrity, that he should have so many imitators and competitors in his own particular line, but we don't think he need be anxious about the opposition he is likely to receive from Mr. Linnaus Banks. This is the sort of stuff which that gentleman has persuaded or paid some publisher to print-

" Lord Beaconsfield for England! Our flag by him unfurled, May bravely bid defiance To the Cæsars of the world."

Would Mr. Banks kindly explain whether he means that Lord Beaconsfield having unfurled the flag may bid defiance to the Casars, or that the flag having got unwrapped is itself to do the defiance business? Altogether this is a most flag-rant case of idiocy.

A CURATE, recently re-visiting the scene of former labours in the country town, flabbergasted his auld acquaintances by preaching, or rather reading, a sermon which they well remembered him having read to them from the same pulpit years before.

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CAWS OF THE WEEK,

T is really amusing to see how desperately hard some of the writers in the correspondence column of the Courier are trying to get up an agitation against the opening of the free libraries on Sunday. would almost suppose that the Creator had given Mr. Slade (whoever he may be) et id genus omne, a special commission to look after His interests on earth. These gentlemen, many of whom have suddenly developed an extraordinary piety, have decided one thing, and that is that the libraries must be closed again immediately. But how this is to be done they do not appear to have settled. Vague ideas of a Free Trade Hall indignation meeting flit through their puzzled brains; the possibility of memorials numerously signed by all the saints of Manchester presents itself with greater distinctness, and they have also some hopes of what the November elections may bring forth. But their grand arguments are the threats of wrath to come if the citizens allow this fearful innovation to be continued, threats which are illustrated by fearful pictures of woo and desolation which is to be the inevitable result of the conduct of a few hundreds or thousands of people in going to a municipal building to read books on a Sunday. And yet, so hardened are the people of this benighted city that they do not seem to be very much frightened at the prospect-at least, one would never think, to look at them in the streets, that they were persons about to undergo the dreadful doom predicted for them by the prophets who vaticinate in the Courier.

DISCIPLES of Mother Shipton, Dr. Cummings, and Dr. Verity, of Habergham Eaves, the last-mentioned of whom does the oracular business for Lancashire Churchmen and Tories; together with Turkish bondholders and sticklers for the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire—will be concerned to hear that in religious circles in Constantinople "the approaching end of the world is much insisted on."

A CORRESPONDENT sends us the following:—"See poem in a paper called Momus of last week, called "The Difference," and then refer to Once a Week, first series, vol. 2, page 97, where you will find the identical poem, with only one word different. This plagiarism should be exposed."

A NORTH-LANCASHIRE paper states that last week "the Bishop of Manchester preached a very impressive sermon (to over 500 persons) in the churchyard at Leck, owing to the old church being down." Why that sermon should have been so very impressive because "the old church was down" is a problem which requires a good deal of consideration. However, acting on the illimitable lines of the Courier, we must conclude that Dr. Fraser has become the arch priest of the Liberationists.

The arrangement to which we alluded last week, whereby any mothers who desire to attend the special (Church of England) mission services which are now being conducted in Ashton-under-Lyne may have their infant children taken care of without charge, during the time of such services, is a rather striking commentary upon one of the rules of the newly-established day nursery in Preston. According to an address given by the Worshipful the Mayor, at the inauguration of the nursery, "the expediency of such institutions arises from the necessity of mothers having to go to work in the factory, and leaving their children behind them inadequately provided for." This being so, we are rather pained to find it enacted that "only children born of parents in wedlock" are to be admitted. The Vicar of Preston and other clergymen were present, and we may therefore take it that it is agreeable to their view of Christian charity—alas for its rarity!—that the sins of parents should be visited upon their children. But what about the crèche of the Great Herceffer?

There are some nice little pickings in the county palatine in the way of pensions and superannuations. The county justices, like very many persons who are dressed in a little brief authority, are exceedingly liberal with other folk's money. Not many of the ratepayers know that the county pension list for the past year, as presented in the recently issued report of the general finance committee, represents a sum of £11,893. 7s. 5d. Of this sum the pensioned officers of the county prisons and asylums took £3,362, and the remainder fell to superannuated police officers. One might have thought that an asylum treasurer had small claim to be pensioned, but our surpriso concerning that must give way when we find a brewer in the same category. Since the foregoing returns were made,

the county justices have granted a pension of £750 a year to Mr. Joseph Holland, late superintendent of the Whittingham Asylum. How many of these justices are there who pay pensions to employees who have helped to make their fortunes?

"Hell Por Bridge" is the name of one of the bridges in the Lonsdalo Hundred. By that title it is known to the county justices, and so printed in their yearly returns. This must be the place where persons "sup with a long spoon."

The people who are making such a pother about the Sunday opening of free libraries and reading-rooms may be appropriately reminded that there is another sphere of labour which might profitably occupy their attention. Some of them may have observed that at Accrington, the other day, the magistrates fined two factory operatives for "profane swearing." Seeing that blasphemy of this sort prevails so much among us, our friends will no doubt be glad to learn that information concerning that class of offences may be laid by any person, the prosecution to be taken within eight days next after the offence. According to the Act of George II., affecting persons who "profanely curse or swear," the penalty for "a day labourer, or common soldier, sailor, or seaman, is 1s.; for any other person under the degree of a gentleman, 2s.; and every person of or above the degree of a gentleman, 5s." For a second offence the penalty may be doubled, and for a third offence trebled. It is something strange to find that a labourer or a soldier or sailor may curse and swear at a cheaper rate than an "officer and gentleman;" the more so since

That in the captain's but a choleric word, Which in the soldier is flat blasphemy.

Professon Gamese was in great form at the anti-vivisection meeting on Monday. Seldom has such a gathering been vivisected-cut up-as that gathering was in Salford Town Hall. Two hundred persons had assembled to hear a lecture by Mr. H. R. Cooke (of London), and to condemn vivisection under all circumstances, and for any object whatever. The lecture having been duly delivered, and the resolutions having been duly proposed, up jumped Professor Gamgee like a giant, and he at them hammer and tongs. He said that, as a representative of physiology in this district, and as one who knew more of vivisection than anyone else in the room, he had thought it incumbent upon him to attend the meeting. There could be no doubt that some physiologists like other men had committed abominable cruelties, and he was not there to defend them; but he would warn people from arriving at the absurd conclusion that any but a very small number of physiologists had ever been guilty of any act of cruelty. It was, perhaps, impossible for any but a medical man thoroughly to understand what good could result from vivisection, but he asked to be believed when he said that it was enormous. Of course, the resolutions were carried; but those present will not soon forget the terrible thrashing which they received from the learned professor.

OSMAN PASHA is undoubtedly a clever general, and he has received many honours accordingly. But the highest honours yet given to the gallant defender of Plevna was that bestowed upon him by the Evening Mail and Mr. Earl Walker (of Batley) combined. The Mail and Earl Walker evidently think so, as least; else, why this paragraph?-"A short time ago, Mr. Earl Walker, of Batley, wrote to Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, expressing admiration of his conduct, and furnishing him with a copy of the Manchester Evening Mail, containing flattering remarks made upon the general's conduct. In reply, he received the following, last Sunday, from the Pasha. We preserve the spelling and composition: Very charmed by your lettre. I can but thank you for your good opinion from me. I have only done my duty, and every loyal Englishman would accomplish the same. I am over and over recompensed by the affection of my generous sovereign, to which the Almighty may give a long live without sorrows. Excuse if your addresse is faulty, you did not write explicitly. Many thanks. Dirdis Rochp (Constantinople), this 27th August, 1878. Yours (signed), OSMAN. Mister Earl Walker, at Batley, Yorks., England." Osman Pasha has now attained the very height of his ambition.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Articles intended for insertion must be addressed to the Editor of the City Jackdaw, Gi, Spear Street, Manchester, and must bear the name and address of the sender. We cannot be responsible for the preservation or return of manuscripts sent to us.

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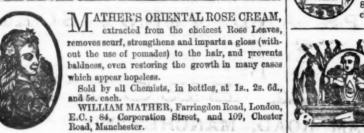
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